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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,824	11/26/2003	James P. Griesmer	MSFT-2789/303543.1	9275

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EXAMINER
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LEE, JINHEE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>		<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/723,824		GRIESMER, JAMES P.	
	<b>Examiner</b>		<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jinhee J. Lee		2174	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____                                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0805</u>  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                           |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 11, 14-17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 11 line 1, the phrase "indication a presence" has grammatical error.

Examiner suggests "indication of a presence" instead to correct the grammatical error.

Claims 14-17 line 1, the phrase "The method of" has an error. Examiner suggests "The system of" instead to maintain consistency with the independent claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Re claims 1-12, claim 1 claims a data structure, however, it appears the limitations of said claim are merely claiming statements defining various items, therefore said limitations do not appear to be defining any functional interrelations which permits the computer program's functionality (or data structure's functionality) to be realized.

In view of the above, claims 1-12 are therefore directed to non-statutory subject matter.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Tiptoe Through (applicant provided NPL document, Microsoft, Tiptoe Through the ToolTips With our All-Encompassing ToolTip Programmer's Guide).

Re claim 1, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method for indicating the values of variables in a program under development, the method comprising: detecting the position of a pointer on a computer display associated with an expression in the program under development (Tooltip appearing, with movement of cursor with mouse for example); reading and evaluating the expression (done by person, inherent); displaying at least one item value in a first window, the item value associated with a variable in the expression, wherein an indication of at least one sub-item value associated with the variable is present (titletips to extend the title of tree or listbox controls for example); and responding to a pointer request for a first sub-item value by displaying a first sub-item window containing the first sub-item value, the first sub-item window being separate from the first item window (tooltips changing according to the movement over the items to be displayed, for example).

Re claim 2, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein, the first item value remains visible when the first sub-item value is displayed, the displayed first sub-item value being accommodated to fit within a limited screen size by the use of at least one scroll control present in the first sub-item window (can control when the tooltip disappears, see page 10 for example).

Re claim 3, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, further comprising: responding to a pointer request for a second sub-item value by displaying a second sub-item window containing second sub-item values (see page 10 for example).

Re claim 4, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein the pointer request for a second sub-item value dismisses the first sub-item window before displaying the second sub-item window (see page 10 for example).

Re claim 5, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, further comprising: allowing the first item window and the first sub-item window to become transparent upon request, wherein displayed information can be viewed during transparency of the first item and first sub-item windows and wherein the transparency can be reversed upon request to again view the first item and first sub-item windows (inherent, since the programmer can control when the tooltip disappears).

Re claim 6, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, further comprising: displaying a menu of operations that can be conducted to alter one or more of format and value of a variable being viewed (extending the title of a tree or listbox controls for example).

Re claim 7, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein the format of a variable being viewed comprises one of simple text, hexadecimal, binary, decimal, text, HTML, XML, and custom editor/viewer (HTML for example).

Re claim 8, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method of displaying related data sub-items corresponding to a cursor-selected object displayed on a computer screen, the method comprising: determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the

cursor-selected object on the computer screen (displaying tool tip); loading the cursor-selected object (inherent); evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object: has a variable value (see page 8 and 9 for example); has related data sub-items; and if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items (extending of a title of a tree for example); assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items; and displaying the values of the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items along with an indication of a presence of the lower-tier sub-items (see pages 1, 8 and 9 for example).

Re claim 9, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein evaluating the cursor-selected object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the cursor-selected object (see pages 8 and 9 for example).

Re claim 10, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein displaying the values of the cursor-selected items and related sub-items further comprises displaying a variable associated with the cursor-selected object and values of the variables respectively (can display the variables, this programmer chooses not to, see page 9).

Re claim 11, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein the indication a presence of the lower-tier sub-items is a symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub-items exist and can be selected for display (can be graphics or list).

Re claim 12, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, further comprising allowing the displayed values to become temporarily transparent allowing visual

examination of underlying displayed information (can control when the tooltip disappears).

Re claim 13, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a system for displaying data tips related to a cursor-selected object displayed on a computer screen, the system comprising: a computer screen to display a cursor-selected object and the data tips (inherent); a processor (inherent) for executing instructions corresponding to the method of: determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (tooltip displayed according to mouse position); loading and evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object: has a variable value (see pages 8 and 9 for example); has related data sub-items; and if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items; assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items; and displaying the values of the cursor-selected object and related sub-items in the data tips using a window located adjacent to the cursor selected object, the window having an indication of the lower-tier sub items if the lower-tier sub-items exist (see pages 1, 8 and 9).

Re claim 14, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein evaluating the cursor-selected object further comprises evaluating an expression associated with the cursor-selected object (see pages 8 and 9 for example).

Re claim 15, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein displaying the values of the cursor-selected items and related sub-items further comprises displaying a variable associated with the cursor-selected object and values of the variables respectively (see pages 1, 8 and 9 for example).

Re claim 16, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein the indication of the lower-tier sub-items is a symbol to indicate that lower-tier sub-items exist and can be selected for display (can be graphics or text for example).

Re claim 17, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a method, wherein the data tip window becomes temporarily transparent upon request allowing visual examination of underlying displayed information (can control when the tooltip disappears for example).

Re claim 18, Microsoft Tiptoe Through discloses a machine-readable medium having instructions therein, executable by a machine to perform a method comprising: determining that a cursor is positioned to point at the cursor-selected object on the computer screen (see page 1 for example); loading the cursor-selected object; evaluating the cursor-selected object to determine if the cursor-selected object: has a variable value; has related data sub-items; and if the related data sub-items are capable of expansion into lower-tier sub-items; assembling values for the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items; and displaying the values of the cursor-selected object and the related data sub-items along with an indication of a presence of the lower-tier sub-items (see pages 1, 8 and 9 for example).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinhee J. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-1977. The examiner can normally be reached on M- F at 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-2100 ext. 74. The fax phone



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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jinhee J Lee  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2174

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jinhee J Lee', is written over the printed name and title.

jji